

Appl. No. 10/001,671
Amdt. dated Nov. 17 2003
Reply to Office action of Sep. 17, 2003

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1 and 10-32 are amended and claim 33 is added. Claims 1 and 10-33 are pending.

Claims 1 and 10-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 56-150655 to Iguchi. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 10-32, as presently recited, are not anticipated by Iguchi.

With respect to claim 1, Iguchi does not disclose a sprocket having different flank profiles selected to maintain a constant spacing between the seatings of the chain rollers and the sprocket center. Claim 1 is clarified to define that the different flank profiles are selected to maintain a constant spacing between the seatings of the chain rollers and the sprocket center. As discussed in the previous Amendment, Iguchi does not even disclose a sprocket for use with a roller or bushing chain, where rollers or bushings have seatings between adjacent teeth. To the contrary, Iguchi discloses a sprocket for use with a silent chain, where the teeth of the chain links contact the teeth of the sprocket. Moreover, Iguchi teaches away from the recited sprocket tooth profiles, as shown in Figure 4 where the pin positions vary in distance from the sprocket center for different tooth flank profiles.

With respect to claims 10-33, Iguchi does not disclose a roller or bushing chain and sprocket system. Instead, Iguchi discloses a sprocket for use with a silent chain, where teeth of the chain links contact teeth of the sprocket to drive the system, and pins connecting the chain links are not received within roots disposed between the sprocket teeth.

With respect to claim 33, Iguchi does not disclose a system having a sprocket with different flank profiles selected to maintain a constant spacing between the seatings of the chain rollers and the sprocket center. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Iguchi discloses a sprocket, illustrated in Figure 4, having different positions for the chain link pin depending upon the tooth flank profile (although still not seated in a root as with the claimed roller or bushing chain).

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For the reasons set forth above, claims 1 and 10-33 are believed to be allowable,
and reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 10-33 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By: 

Jon A. Birmingham
Registration No. 51,222

Date: November 17, 2003
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
120 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Telephone: (312) 577-7000
Facsimile: (312) 577-7007

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